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September 12, 2016

The Honorable Robert G. Taub  
Acting Chairman  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

Chairman Taub;

I am one of millions of small American businesses that suffer economic damage from the unfairly low terminal dues charged for Chinese packages being shipped into the US.

I submitted an officially logged comment regarding Docket IM2016-1, Section 407 addressing the issue of terminal dues reform.

I am also submitting this letter to you directly, as this matter is of immense importance. I feel the public has not been made aware of the current gross inequity that exists in the terminal dues system and the opportunity to address this inequity at the upcoming 26th Universal Postal Union Congress. The lack of transparency I encountered while researching these proceedings is concerning. Every informed voice counts right now.

I pay over 250% of what a Chinese shipper pays to deliver a package to a US customer. This creates an unfair imbalance, giving Chinese ecommerce merchants a powerful and unjust advantage over domestic sellers who benefit our own country's economy by creating employment. The expense of the ever growing burden of Chinese packages in the USPS system also drives up the future fees I must pay for shipping. I have seen a 175% percent increase in my shipping costs since I started my small home business nine years ago, and I understand that the inequity of the current terminal dues system is one large factor in constantly rising postal rates.

China is not a developing country in the arena of ecommerce. Rather, it is currently dominating much of ecommerce in our country. It should not be given the same economic advantages the UPU extends to developing nations.

Charging Chinese shippers terminal dues fees substantial enough to cover the expense USPS bears to deliver the package will have strong positive effects on the American economy, especially for small businesses engaging in ecommerce. It will also ease one significant and growing financial burden upon

our USPS system, which is necessary for the infrastructure of our country and is already struggling on many fronts.

I have discussed this issue with many fellow merchants. I have uncovered a deep frustration among our citizens with the current system when all the details and numbers are made available to them. If this issue was dealt with in a more publicly visible manner, I suspect the outcry from Americans would be overwhelming. I believe many people do not know about this inequity, partly because of how hidden and difficult to understand PRC and UPU proceedings are, as well as the lack of media coverage regarding this issue.

Please know word is spreading and the public is starting to pay attention. I ask that you represent the interests of the American economy and the concerns of the American people when making your statement to the State Department on this matter. We need your help, your strongest representation of our concerns. I ask that you make every effort within your means to change the current terminal dues system in place, so that Chinese package terminal dues actually cover the cost of their delivery. I believe to do any less would be to fail the American people and our economy.

Please know that I will be submitting my concerns via letter directly to the State Department as well, because of the late date, so close to the beginning of the 26<sup>th</sup> UPU Congress.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Alexander, ecommerce merchant